

# INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY: Austria

SUBJECT: Communist Plans for Whitsuntide Youth Ballads

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SOURCE

1. The Federal Directorate, Free Austrian Youth (FOeJ), is arranging for two national youth meetings to take place at Bruck an der Mur, Styria, and Linz-Urfahr, Upper Austria. The two meetings will start simultaneously on 30 May 1952, when special trains will depart from the Vienna area to carry participants to the two sites. So far it has been decided that the FOeJ organizations of Vienna III and IV will go to Linz, while those of Vienna X and XXIII will journey to Bruck an der Mur. The decision as to the dispersal of other groups, including factory cell youth organizations, will be made sometime during the next two weeks.
2. Total actual participation in both meeting places will amount to approximately 25,000 persons, although pre-meeting propaganda stresses the goal of 50,000. The larger number, probably 15,000 - 17,000, will be directed to Linz, including 200 participants expected from East Germany, a small group from West Germany, and a minimum of 50 persons each from Czechoslovakia and Hungary. Although the preparatory committee is experiencing difficulty in arranging for space for the Linz youth meetings, the main events will take place at Linz proper and headquarters will be established at Urfahr, in the Soviet occupied part of Upper Austria.
3. Small groups from Italy and France are expected to take part in the events at Bruck an der Mur, which will be attended primarily by Austrian youth groups from Burgenland, Lower Austria, Styria and Carinthia. The FOeJ is arranging for special trains to leave Vienna and Graz for Bruck an der Mur on the evening of 30 May 1952. Special low fares will enable a maximum of participants to journey to both locations.
4. The FOeJ is not planning to use the meetings as propaganda instruments for the Communist Party line, but will mainly stress peace propaganda with the slogan being "Fuer Frieden und Heimat" ("For Peace and Home"). In this way it is hoped to obtain limited participation of non-Communist youth groups, such as the "Zirkelratische Jugend" (a splinter group of boy scouts, attached to the Ergaerliche movement), and the "Diocesanjugend", a Catholic youth organization.

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Comments: The West German group will travel via Munich and Salzburg.

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